MINISTRY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

COURT SERVICES BRANCH

REPORT OF THE 2002/2003 FISCAL YEAR

June 25, 2003

Court Services Branch
2002/2003 Report

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I. SUMMARY

Justice is the outcome of several processes managed and operated by a number of agencies with diverse mandates. Court Services Branch is the administrative hub for many justice programs and it provides general infrastructure support and longer term planning services to all participants in the court system. These include the judiciary, the accused, litigants, Crown counsel and private bar, corrections, victims, police and individuals. To serve the court and consumers of justice, the Branch provides leadership in ensuring continuity of justice processes and, since the role of the other participants is narrowly defined, the Branch is in a position to take the broad view and lead integration of the operational interdependencies among agencies.

Court Services Branch is responsible for the delivery of all court administration services in British Columbia. These consist of registry and trial support for the Provincial Court, Supreme Court and Court of Appeal, prisoner custody and escort, courthouse security, jury administration, the civil bailiff process and the provision and maintenance of courthouse facilities.

The Branch is responsible for supporting timely and equitable access to the court system. As a servant of the court, it is responsible for providing administrative services to the judiciary. Court administrators throughout the province fulfill this mandate in a manner that is respectful of an independent judiciary. The Branch responds to and supports court events that are scheduled by the judiciary, and provides information to parties and agencies in relation to these events and processes.

The Branch has three major functional areas of responsibility:

- **Case documentation and adjudication support.** This includes case initiation (and fee collection), file and exhibit management, court clerking, court recording and transcripts, interpreter services and the preparation and dissemination of court orders.

- **Court and courthouse security.** This involves the physical security of the Judiciary, juries, staff, court participants and others in and around the courthouse.

- **Court order enforcement.** This includes the holding and transportation of prisoners, the collection of court fines, and the civil bailiff process.

The chief administrator of court services has duties specified in the *Supreme Court Act* and the *Provincial Court Act*. These include a reporting relationship with the Chief Justice of the Court of Appeal, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and the Chief Judge of the Provincial Court, in addition to being responsible to the Attorney General for services related to planning, administration and operations.

HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights of the 2002/03 operations were:

- The 2002/03 fiscal year marked the first year in the last eight years where total new cases declined. There were approximately 11,000 fewer new cases (down 3.0 per cent), with the largest deceases in Provincial Court Criminal (down 5,600 or 5.4 per cent), Youth (down 2,100 cases or 13.8 per cent), Family and Small Claims (down 5.3 percent and 2.5 per cent respectively).

- Court workload, as measured by court hours, was relatively steady between fiscal year 2001/02 and 2002/03. A 2,900 hour increase in Supreme Civil was partially offset by a 1,700 decease in Provincial Small Claims hours. Provincial Small Claims sitting hours are down approximately 4,000 (22 per cent) from their level of three years ago.

- Completed Criminal cases in the Provincial Court declined 5.6 per cent, which mirrored the decline in new cases. A similar downward trend was evident for completed Youth cases.

- With regard to case age, there was relatively no change in the number of Adult Criminal cases with a future scheduled appearance; but, the percentage of cases pending more than 240 days rose to 39.5 per cent. The number and average age of pending Youth cases continues to decline.

- Despite the Criminal Caseflow Management rules, the average number of appearances for completed Adult Criminal cases rose to 5.92 or 4.6 per cent. The average for completed Youth cases rose to 5.25, or 6.2 per cent.

- A Branch review (completed in March, 2003) of the impact of court closures on the receiving court location found that the closure did not increase case delay at the receiving location.

II. COURT OPERATIONS

1. Court Consolidation/Circuit Courts

In order to meet the Ministry's 2002/03 to 2004/05 budget targets, it was decided to close 24 of the 68 staffed courthouses, ranging from small, one-room locations to mid-sized locations (Burnaby). The criteria were primarily the distance to the receiving location (usually less than 100 kilometres) and/or the anticipated cost of the required renovations.

The closures were announced by the Attorney General on January 17, 2002, and were to become effective by June. The savings to Court Services was estimated at some 65 FTEs and $7.0 million.

The closures sparked a strong reaction from the Chief Judge and a lawsuit launched by the Law Society. A number of communities, lead initially by 100 Mile House, proposed circuit courts as an alternative to a complete closure.

The Branch was engaged in many discussions with municipal governments throughout the May to September period. As the Union of British Columbia Municipalities meeting in late September, the government authorized British Columbia Buildings Corporation to reduce the selling price on a number of the former court buildings if the municipality was prepared to use them for circuit courts.

To date, 14 communities have agreed to circuit court in addition to the existing 30 circuit court locations. The Chief Judge has said that they are prepared to sit on a circuit basis in any of the former court locations. If municipal offices are moved into the building another set of rules apply which are designed to ensure the separation of independent judicial functions.

Courthouse Amalgamations & Closures

Closing Location	Closed by:	Receiving Location
100 Mile House	Circuit Court	Contact Williams Lake
Burnaby (Youth, Family, Small Claims & Traffic)	June 1, 2002	Robson Square
Burnaby (Adult Criminal)	June 1, 2002	222 Main Street
Castlegar	Circuit Court	Contact Nelson
Chase	Circuit Court	Contact Kamloops
Chetwynd	Circuit Court	Contact Dawson Creek
Creston	Circuit Court	Contact Cranbrook
Delta (Family, Small Claims & Traffic)	Nov 1, 2002	Richmond
Delta (Adult Criminal & Youth)	Nov 1, 2002	Surrey
Fernie	Circuit Court	Contact Cranbrook
Grand Forks	Circuit Court	Contact Rossland
Hope	Circuit Court	Contact Chilliwack
Houston	Circuit Court	Contact Smithers

Invermere	August 1, 2003	Contact Cranbrook
Kimberley	June 1, 2002	Cranbrook
Kitimat	Circuit Court	Contact Terrace
Lillooet	Circuit Court	Contact Kamloops
Lytton	June 1, 2002	Kamloops
Maple Ridge	June 1, 2002	Port Coquitlam
Merritt	August 1, 2002	Kamloops
Oliver	June 1, 2002	Penticton
Parksville	June 1, 2002	Nanaimo
Princeton	Circuit Court	Contact Penticton
Revelstoke	Circuit Court	Contact Salmon Arm
Squamish	August 1, 2002	North Vancouver
Vanderhoof	Circuit Court	Contact Prince George

2. Criminal Caseflow Management (CCFM)

This Provincial Court initiative is a major undertaking designed to reduce delay in the criminal courts. The British Columbia rules, created under the Criminal Code of Canada, require (among other things) both Crown and defence to have discussed the case prior to the setting of a trial date. Results to date show a significant decline in trials set, increased scheduling certainty and a reduction in the proportion of older cases which are in danger of being stayed due to unacceptable systemic delay. A review, lead by Associate Chief Judge Spence, which includes representatives of Court Services and the Criminal Justice Branch, was completed during the year. The recommendation was to maintain the rules, but allow for some local variation.

3. Justice Centre (24 x 7 JJP Centre)

This Centre was established in 2001 to hear bail and search warrant applications by telephone and fax. The Centre is administered by the Provincial Court, not by the Branch. With the elimination of Stipendiary JPs in December, 2002, all after-hour JP work throughout the province is now going to the Centre. The police have raised concerns about response times.

In February, 2003, the Centre was moved to new offices in Burnaby from its original site at the 222 Main Street courthouse.

4. Videoconferencing

BC has the most extensive justice videoconferencing network in use in Canada. Court Services has led the expansion and there are currently 63 units throughout the province, operational in 28 courthouses as well as provincial and federal correctional centres. Our goal is to raise the utilization rates. In the past three years more than 4,000 prisoner court appearances have occurred by videoconference, avoiding the need to escort these prisoners from correctional centres. This technology has the potential to promote access, improve timely case progress, and reduce costs.

Amendments to the Evidence Act were developed during this year to provide all Courts with clear authority to use videoconferencing in civil and family hearings.

5. Youth Criminal Justice Act

This major revision to federal legislation, to be implemented on April 1, 2003, resulted in a number of significant changes to court procedures. The Branch has been a key player in the province's planning group and is now well positioned for implementation. We are working to resolve some outstanding issues with the Criminal Justice Branch and the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

During the year the Branch developed web-based training for staff. This training model reduces training travel and expenses.

6. High Profile and High Security Trials

The preparation for the Air India trial was a major project for Court Services Branch. Approximately $7.2 million in renovations were spent at the Vancouver Law Courts to create a state-of-the-art electronic courtroom (Courtroom 20) and other physical changes. The preparations for the trial involved a considerable amount of planning and co-ordination between agencies, which was managed through an Integrated Trial Management Team. The Air India preparations have assisted the Branch to organize and support other high security and high profile trials. New training, security and emergency response standards have been created which will be applied in other courthouses to improve the safety of the court and court users. Sheriffs receive advanced training in tactics, crowd management, high security prisoner transport and integrated planning and emergency response.

The Branch was also very active in the planning and preparation for the Pickton trial, which presented a second set of unique challenges due to the high media interest.

7. Traffic Court Reform

In the spring, 2002, amendments were made to the Offence Act to permit a major reform of the Traffic courts. Police witnesses will soon be able to provide certificate evidence in some matters, most traffic offence fines will increase, and the legislation allows for a new discount incentive for violators who pay their fine in a timely manner. In addition, violators who wish to dispute a fine amount of a Violation Ticket or seek time to pay a fine may do so with a written affidavit, and do not need to attend in court. It is expected that this reform will free up court time and help reduce the backlog of disputed Violation Tickets.

Extensive consultation took place during the year with the police community, municipalities and the judiciary.

8. By-Law Court Reform

In July, 2002, Court Services Branch issued a public discussion paper proposing reforms to the enforcement of minor by-law infractions, including a proposal to move these matters out of the formal court system. After a review of responses to the paper and extensive consultations with local governments, by-law enforcement officers, municipal lawyers and UBCM, legislation was drafted to implement the proposals.

The new legislation will be introduced in the Legislature in September, 2003. Once passed, it is anticipated that implementation will be phased in beginning in early 2004. The new legislation will simplify the way municipal tickets are issued and delivered and will create a simple, cost-effective dispute adjudication system. Ad hoc adjudicators will hear and resolve the disputes rather than the provincial court.

9. Digital Audio

The Branch has been exploring a change from audio tape based transcripts to a computerized digital audio system. Pilot tests done two years ago did not result in a compelling business case, but with the advent of cheaper technology the Branch is reviewing the process again. Equipment has been installed in the Court of Appeal in Vancouver to pilot transcript processing using this new technology.

10. Justice Information System (JUSTIN)

The JUSTIN system is a fully integrated criminal case management system that spans the police, Crown, Courts, Judiciary and Corrections. Development began in the mid-1990s and was fully implemented throughout the province in July, 2001. JUSTIN provides a provincial data base of all criminal cases, including traffic tickets, and includes a trial scheduling component.

The system provides the capability for greatly enhanced information sharing and we currently have sharing agreements in place with a variety of public safety agencies, including federal Crown, immigration and corrections. The main tasks for the next 12 to 18 months is to link the proposed police PRIME system with JUSTIN.

In 2002 JUSTIN won the national Technology in Government silver award for integrated systems, and subsequently a first place for the BC Government technology systems awards.

11. Civil Electronic Information Services (CEIS)

The CEIS project will produce a provincial case tracking system for all civil (including family and small claims) court files. It is the first phase in developing an electronic web-based system to allow electronic filing of documents, and electronic search capabilities to access court files and related documents (Court Services Online).

12. Fax Filing of Civil Documents Pilot Project

This new filing process began on February 1, 2003, in 14 court locations. It allows litigants in the civil courts to fax their documents to the court registry and pay the filing fee by credit card. The project was developed with the support and assistance of the Judiciary and is seen as the first step toward a full web-assisted electronic filing of civil documents.

13. BC's Role in National Integrated Justice Initiatives

BC was one of the first jurisdictions in North America to develop technology to integrate and share criminal justice information. BC's experience with JUSTIN has placed it in a unique position regarding national integrated justice initiatives. The Ministry is a part of the National Integrated Justice Information (IJI) initiative. As part of IJI initiative, BC has also made significant contributions to, and participated in, the development of draft national standards for privacy, records management, data standards and security.

14. Government Shared Services Initiatives

During the year, the provincial government, as a result of the Core Review process, began to consolidate a number of support functions into government wide units. This included the centralization of computer hardware (PCs, servers, etc.), network and helpdesk support. The personnel function was consolidated into the new Public Service Agency, and payroll and other support services were also centralized.

The Branch was actively consulted during this process and ensured that the ownership of court records and other data was respected and secured.

The Branch continues to fulfill its statutory requirements respecting court and judicial administration.

III. SHERIFF SERVICES

There are approximately 480 full and part-time sheriff staff who provide court security and transport prisoners in the province. The Executive Director, Sheriff Services, who reports to the Assistant Deputy Minister, has direct responsibility for lower mainland Sheriff Operation, which represents approximately 60 per cent of court activity, and has provincial authority over sheriff policy, standards and best practices.

1. Enhanced Security Awareness

The events of September 11, 2001 have resulted in an increased awareness of the need for security to be reflected in building design and operations. This has given rise to increased priority for building security. Many court facilities are older, and constructed in an age when security and threat management was not a major concern. A Memorandum of Understanding has been developed with the British Columbia Buildings Corporation to define roles relating to security of courts, and provide a framework for development of building design security standards. Under the agreement, a security assessment and upgrade plan will be developed for all courthouses in British Columbia.

2. Health and Safety

Court Services Branch has been working with the Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) and the BCGEU to develop and implement a comprehensive Occupational Health and Safety program. There are a unique set of issues and circumstances surrounding the mandate of the Branch and its employees. The program addresses the WCB requirements for risk assessment and creates a consultative framework for managing Occupational Health and Safety issues associated with the unique job of the Sheriff. The program will be implemented in 2003/04.

3. High Security Trials

The Sheriff Services have been very active with police and other agencies in planning for high security trials. Both the Air India and the Pickton cases have presented many challenges for the Sheriffs, who have moved into a leadership role in security planning, crowd management and related issues. Investments in advanced training as well as security infrastructure have been made.

4. Jury Administration

In March, 2003, the Attorney General announced a change in the criminal jury fee schedule that will provide higher *per diem* fees for long criminal jury trials. The new fee schedule maintains the $20 fee for the first 10 days of trial and increases to $60 per day for trial duration of between 11 and 49 days. Where a trial runs 50 days or longer, the *per diem* fee increases to $100 commencing on the 50th day of trial.

A consultation process is currently underway respecting civil jury fees.

Court Services Branch is continuing discussions with Elections BC regarding the appropriateness of using the provincial voters' database for selecting potential jurors.

5. Inter-Agency Prisoner Management

Closures of institutions and courthouses, and the reduction in the Keep of Prisoners funding by the Corrections Branch, demonstrated the need for closer co-ordination and stronger relationships between Sheriffs, Police and Corrections to manage issues corporately and on a province wide basis. Discussions have been held with the Chief Superintendent of "E" Division, Police Services and Corrections Branch, and an interagency steering committee has been established. The committee will address inter-agency issues relating to prisoner management, transportation and security as well as to consider measures for promoting efficiency and effectiveness. The committee creates an appropriate venue for joint planning and conflict resolution.

6. Inter-Agency Protocols

Flowing from the PIMS project, memoranda of understanding are being developed with Corrections Branch of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, and the Youth Custody Division of Ministry of Children and Family Development, to define the interdependencies among agencies for prisoner and transportation management as well as data sharing.

IV. ORGANIZATION AND STAFF

1. Staff Appreciation

Staff Appreciation Awards are an important element in the process by which the Branch recognizes outstanding achievement during the year. In 2002/03, awards were presented, in the form of framed pictures, prints, cards or plaques, to the following 36 recipients:

Employee Name	Type of Award	Reason for Award
Scott Andison (ITSD)	Plaque	In Appreciation
Elaine Beaulac	Print	Service to Court Services
William Norton	Plaque	Service to Court Services
Brian Morin (FSD)	Plaque	Service to Court Services/Court Restructuring
Jim Barker (BCBC)	Print	Court Restructuring
Mike Christian	Print	Court Restructuring
Gillian Wallace (DAG)	Framed Picture	In Appreciation
Tanya Arthur	Card	New *Youth Criminal Justice Act*
Alan Bagshaw	Card	New *Youth Criminal Justice Act*
Jacynthe Bouchard	Print	New *Youth Criminal Justice Act*
Rob Brinkster	Card	New *Youth Criminal Justice Act*
Georgina Daniels	Print	New *Youth Criminal Justice Act*
Jim Stuart	Print	New *Youth Criminal Justice Act*
Brad Bennett	Card	New *Youth Criminal Justice Act*
Dajana Ross	Card	New *Youth Criminal Justice Act*
Darla Zollen	Card	New *Youth Criminal Justice Act*
Kevin Purdy	Card	New *Youth Criminal Justice Act*
Kristine Trueman	Card	New *Youth Criminal Justice Act*
Bev Clark	Card	New *Youth Criminal Justice Act*
Judi Woodcock	Card	New *Youth Criminal Justice Act*
Diane Spani	Card	New *Youth Criminal Justice Act*
Debbie Spouler	Card	New *Youth Criminal Justice Act*
Ted Hubert	Card	New *Youth Criminal Justice Act*
Nadia Hugh	Card	New *Youth Criminal Justice Act*
Cindy Pearce	Card	New *Youth Criminal Justice Act*
Lorna Foster	Card	Fax Filing Project
Elizabeth Glassford	Card	Fax Filing Project
Nadia Hugh	Card	Fax Filing Project
Hazel Lew	Card	Fax Filing Project
Debby Mackie	Card	Fax Filing Project
Brent Messenger	Card	Fax Filing Project
Ron Rayner	Card	Fax Filing Project
Fran Sund	Card	Fax Filing Project
Judith Hoffman	Card	Fax Filing Project
Kathryn Thomson	Card	Fax Filing Project
Elizabeth Peddie	Card	Fax Filing Project

2. Organizational Awards

In 2003, JUSTIN won a silver medal at the GTECH 10th Anniversary Distinctions Award in the National E-government category of innovative cross-jurisdictional e-government projects, and a BC Provincial Public Sector Technology Transformation Gold Award for leading an e-service initiative.

The new Sechelt courthouse and police building won the North American Building Owners and Managers Association Earth Award.

V. FINANCIAL SUMMARY

COURT SERVICES BRANCH
2002/03 FTE AND OPERATING EXPENDITURES
June 25, 2003

PART 1: BUDGET VS YEAR-END ACTUALS BY STOB

	DESCRIPTION	DELEGATED BUDGET	YEAR END ACTUALS	VARIANCE AMOUNT (1)
		a	*b*	*c = a - b*
FTEs		**1,311.00**	**1,293.58**	**17.42**
STOB	**SALARIES AND BENEFITS**			
50	BASE SALARIES AND OVERTIME	56,095,000	54,431,285	1,663,715
51	SUPPLEMENTARY SALARY COSTS	800,000	1,112,185	(312,185)
52	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	13,098,000	12,487,404	610,596
	OPERATING COSTS			
55	BOARDS, COMM. & COURTS FEES/EXPENSES	2,239,000	1,788,728	450,272
57	PUBLIC SERVANT TRAVEL	1,311,000	1,378,181	(67,181)
60	PROF SERVICES OPER. & REGULATORY	2,814,000	2,107,412	706,588
63	INFORMATION SYSTEMS - OPERATING	2,543,000	2,127,059	415,941
65	OFFICE AND BUSINESS EXPENSES	2,385,000	3,495,723	(1,110,723)
67	INFORM ADVERTISING & PUBLICATIONS	0	113	(113)
68	STATUTORY ADVERTISING & PUBLICATIONS	0	48	(48)
69	UTILITIES, MATERIALS & SUPPLIES	851,000	1,002,406	(151,406)
70	OPERATING EQUIPMENT & VEHICLES	1,333,000	1,138,023	194,977
73	AMORTIZATION EXPENSE	5,143,000	4,617,448	525,552
75	BUILDING OCCUPANCY CHARGES	53,811,000	51,591,072	2,219,928
	GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS			
76	GRANTS	0	16,628	(16,628)
78	CONTRIBUTIONS	0	0	0
8110	TRANSFERS BETWEEN PGT & FUNDS	0	250,126	(250,126)
84	INTEREST COSTS	192,000	102,056	
85	**OTHER EXPENDITURES**	118,000	81,090	36,910
	RECOVERIES			
8610	RECOVERIES BETWEEN PGT & FUNDS	0	0	0
88	RECOVERIES WITHIN GOVERNMENT	0	1,274	(1,274)
89	RECOVERIES - EXTERNAL TO THE CRF	(754,000)	(619,932)	(134,068)
TOTAL		141,979,001	137,108,329	4,870,672

FOOTNOTES:

(1) See variance explanations on next page.

COURT SERVICES BRANCH
2002/03 FTE AND OPERATING EXPENDITURES
June 25, 2003

PART 2: MAJOR CAUSES OF VARIANCE

		$,000's	FTEs
A)	**PRESSURES:**		
	1. Vancouver Pretrial Services Centre closure - additional escorts	(354)	(8.00)
	2. Lower Mainland high security staffing	(625)	(7.44)
	3. telecommunications cost pressures	(156)	
	4. office furniture & equipment (one-time)	(387)	
	5. office expense cost pressures	(187)	
	6. Drug Court recoveries not realized (one-time)	(124)	
	7. ICBC systems modifications (one-time)	(250)	
		(2,083)	**(15.44)**
B)	**SAVINGS:**		
	1. Air India trial delay (one-time)	3,189	12.10
	2. BOC STI recalculation & adjustments (one-time)	2,267	
	3. Bylaw hearing recoveries	300	
	4. recruitment savings (one-time)	1,198	20.76
		6,954	**32.86**
NET VARIANCE:		**4,871**	**17.42**

Cost savings from the delay in the Air India trial (one-time), and a BCBC unit reduction, totalled approximately $5.45 million.

Certain cost pressures during the year lowered the net underexpenditure to $4.87 million

CIVIL FILING FEES REVENUE
FISCAL 1999/2000 TO 2003/04

(reported in millions of dollars)

DRAFT

REVENUE DESCRIPTION	1999/2000 ACTUALS	2000/01 ACTUALS	2001/02 ACTUALS	2002/03 ACTUALS	2003/04 PROJECTIONS
4386 Initiation Fees	13.0	12.5	12.2	11.9	13.1
4387 Submissions/Documentation Fees	10.1	9.9	9.1	8.6	9.6
4388 Divorce Fees	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.6
4390 Miscellaneous Court Fees	2.4	2.1	2.3	2.2	2.3
4392 Sheriff Fees	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.3
4532 Exam Room Rentals	1.8	1.5	2.2	1.8	1.7
CIVIL FEES (excluding Probate Fees)	**30.9**	**29.7**	**29.5**	**28.2**	**30.6**
4389 Probate Fees	24.7	27.1	27.3	29.2	29.3
TOTAL CIVIL REVENUES	**55.6**	**56.8**	**56.8**	**57.4**	**59.9**
TOTAL ESTIMATED CIVIL EXPENDITURES	**54.0**	**54.0**	**54.6**	**57.0**	**57.0**
REVENUE AS A PERCENTAGE OF ESTIMATED CIVIL EXPENDITURES					
Civil Fees (excluding Probate Fees)	57.2%	55.0%	54.0%	49.5%	53.7%
Probate Fees	45.7%	50.2%	50.0%	51.2%	51.4%
ESTIMATED COST RECOVERY LEVEL	**103.0%**	**105.2%**	**104.0%**	**100.7%**	**105.1%**

NOTES:

1) Estimated Civil Expenditures are based on cost allocations for supreme civil and provincial small claims expenditures.
Criminal and provincial family are not included as cost recoverable programs.

2) Estimated Civil Expenditures for 1999/00, 2000/01, 2001/02 & 2002/03 are based on actual court hours for these programs.

3) Estimated Civil Expenditures for 2003/04 are based on cost allocation of budgeted expenditures for 2003/04 and actual court hours for 2002/03.

4) Sheriff Fees are reported gross which is offset by $600,000 per annum civil jury cost recovery.

Prepared by Fran Sund, June 24/03

VI. STATISTICS

Court Services Branch Eight Year Comparison
Court Hours and New Cases
1995/96 - 2002/03

		Fiscal Year							
	Court Level and Division	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
Court Hours	Appeal Court Hours	3,033	3,276	2,784	2,659	2,233	2,663	2,462	2,238
	Supreme Criminal Hours	22,025	23,312	22,097	20,679	20,500	21,144	18,639	17,984
	Supreme Civil Hours	44,789	44,140	43,633	45,782	43,076	39,683	38,411	41,284
	Total Supreme Court Hours	66,814	67,452	65,729	66,461	63,576	60,827	57,050	59,268
	Prov. Crim Adult Hours (inc. traff.)	69,854	70,709	76,561	79,162	82,285	83,777	81,426	80,605
	Prov. Crim Youth Hours	11,090	11,292	11,139	11,649	10,412	8,594	7,743	7,255
	Prov. Civil Family Hours	10,978	13,476	15,821	17,557	19,031	19,211	19,031	19,367
	Prov. Civil Small Claim Hours	19,750	17,802	17,295	16,800	17,857	16,734	15,358	13,676
	Total Provincial Court Hours	111,672	113,279	120,815	125,168	129,586	128,316	123,558	120,903

		Fiscal Year							
	Court Level and Division	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
New Cases	Appeal Criminal New Cases	549	509	574	523	446	492	461	367
	Appeal Civil New Cases	1,188	1,123	1,118	971	1,029	877	1,005	814
	Total Appeal Court New Cases	1,737	1,632	1,692	1,494	1,475	1,369	1,466	1,181
	Supreme Criminal New Cases	4,711	4,356	4,096	5,291	5,146	5,150	4,971	4,129
	Supreme Civil New Cases	69,732	71,688	64,560	65,330	68,574	66,950	67,206	65,534
	Total Supreme Court New Cases	74,443	76,044	68,656	70,621	73,720	72,100	72,177	69,663
	Prov. Crim Adult New Cases	109,758	107,236	112,316	110,161	105,983	102,311	105,313	99,663
	Prov. Crim Youth New Cases	20,937	18,938	19,308	18,258	17,370	15,448	15,090	13,012
	Prov. Crim New Traffic Cases	50,984	57,725	56,813	70,164	70,267	78,530	90,318	91,445
	Prov. Crim New Bylaw Cases	13,596	15,495	17,731	23,839	24,623	28,542	29,289	30,335
	Prov. Civil Fam New Cases/Apps	20,644	23,305	23,959	25,854	28,623	33,803	33,414	31,627
	Prov. Civil Small Clm New Cases	39,678	34,800	33,598	29,056	28,556	26,173	22,990	22,151
	Total Provincial Crt New Cases	255,597	257,499	263,725	277,332	275,422	284,807	296,414	288,233

		Fiscal Year							
	Court Level and Division	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
Total	Grand Total Court Hours	181,518	184,007	189,328	194,288	195,395	191,806	183,070	182,408
	Grand Total New Cases	331,777	335,175	334,073	349,447	350,617	358,276	370,057	359,077

Data Source: Court Services Branch EIS, CORIN and CSS Databases

Note 2002/03 figures are preliminary and subject to change.

British Columbia Provincial Court New Cases by Court Division and Case Type 1993/94 to 2002/03

Fiscal Year	Adult Criminal New Cases[1]	New Motor Vehicle Cases	New Municipal Bylaw Cases	Youth New Cases	Family New Cases - FRA/FMEA[2,3]	Family New Cases - FCSA/ CFCSA[2,4]	Small Claim New Cases[5]
1993/94	101,532	49,682	15,163	19,575	14,830	3,465	39,277
1994/95	105,583	56,119	13,445	19,940	11,082	2,574	38,218
1995/96[6]	109,758	50,984	13,596	20,937	11,365	2,173	39,678
1996/97[6]	107,236	57,725	15,495	18,938	11,970	2,161	34,800
1997/98	112,316	56,813	17,731	19,308	11,749	2,634	33,598
1998/99	110,161	70,164	23,839	18,258	12,118	2,987	29,056
1999/00	105,983	70,267	24,623	17,370	12,968	3,114	28,556
2000/01	102,311	78,530	28,542	15,448	12,916	2,901	26,173
2001/02	105,313	90,318	29,289	15,090	11,860	2,471	22,990
2002/03	99,663	91,445	30,335	13,012	11,377	2,026	22,151

Data Source: Court Services Branch CORIN and CSS Databases

Note 2002/03 figures are preliminary and subject to change.

[1] Excludes known Provincial Motor Vehicle and Municipal Bylaw cases.

[2] As of August, 1994, Family Court Subsequent Applications no longer counted as new cases. Also, there has been reporting problems with certain locations resulting in an undercounting of new cases.

[3] *Family Relations Act* (FRA) and *Family Maintenance Enforcement Act* (FMEA) new cases.

[4] *Family Child Services Act* (FCSA) and *Child, Family Community Service Act* (CFCSA, proclaimed January, 1996) new cases.

[5] In May, 1993, a Small Claims differential fee structure was introduced.

[6] Adult new cases for 1995/96 and 1996/97 reflect the addition of an estimated number of cases to account for the file number recycling problem in Vancouver Provincial Court (1,728 and 6,607 respectively).

Adult Criminal and Youth New and Completed Cases by Type 1996/97 to 2002/03

Adult Criminal

Number of New Cases by Case Type

Type	1996/97*	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	02-03 % Chg
Person CCC	25,176	25,652	24,043	22,313	21,350	21,932	20,973	-4.4%
Property CCC	29,762	30,637	29,321	27,439	24,493	24,425	23,351	-4.4%
Other CCC	34,331	37,832	37,510	34,984	36,248	38,548	36,674	-4.9%
Unknown CCC	3,726	3,969	4,096	4,925	4,904	4,928	4,226	-14.2%
Other Federal	11,564	11,624	12,039	13,357	12,700	13,089	11,204	-14.4%
Prov. Statutes	2,297	2,347	2,842	2,756	2,457	2,348	3,235	37.8%
Unknown	380	255	310	209	159	43	-	-100.0%
Total Cases	107,236	112,316	110,161	105,983	102,311	105,313	99,663	-5.4%

*Number of Completed Cases by Case Type***

Type	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	02-03 % Chg
Person CCC	25,240	24,369	23,846	23,775	22,065	21,751	21,218	-2.5%
Property CCC	28,802	29,028	28,851	28,390	25,940	25,706	24,945	-3.0%
Other CCC	31,880	35,051	37,214	36,061	37,769	39,547	36,319	-8.2%
Unknown CCC	3,425	3,811	3,961	4,916	4,861	5,034	4,246	-15.7%
Other Federal	11,462	10,676	10,980	12,264	12,934	13,241	11,821	-10.7%
Prov. Statutes	2,075	2,093	2,531	2,815	2,602	2,464	3,187	29.3%
Unknown	168	228	267	241	176	65	17	-73.8%
Total Cases	103,052	105,256	107,650	108,462	106,347	107,808	101,753	-5.6%

Youth

Number of New Cases by Case Type

Type	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	02-03 % Chg
Person CCC	2,977	3,068	2,614	2,527	2,228	2,094	1,867	-10.8%
Property CCC	7,468	6,920	6,139	5,274	4,258	3,945	3,099	-21.4%
Other CCC	3,549	4,012	3,778	3,481	3,766	4,100	3,476	-15.2%
Unknown CCC	503	610	562	618	556	557	601	7.9%
Other Federal	4,270	4,543	5,035	5,316	4,529	4,300	3,907	-9.1%
Prov. Statutes	159	137	107	138	95	90	62	-31.1%
Unknown	12	18	23	16	16	4	-	-100.0%
Total Cases	18,938	19,308	18,258	17,370	15,448	15,090	13,012	-13.8%

*Number of Completed Cases by Case Type***

Type	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	02-03 % Chg
Person CCC	2,968	2,826	2,774	2,634	2,275	2,281	1,891	-17.1%
Property CCC	7,477	6,515	6,201	5,624	4,544	4,140	3,371	-18.6%
Other CCC	3,559	3,707	3,709	3,593	3,816	3,967	3,571	-10.0%
Unknown CCC	535	546	542	636	518	593	578	-2.5%
Other Federal	4,341	4,314	4,898	5,338	4,746	4,383	4,054	-7.5%
Prov. Statutes	158	128	117	109	111	115	189	64.3%
Unknown	9	19	20	18	15	5	1	-80.0%
Total Cases	19,047	18,055	18,261	17,952	16,025	15,484	13,655	-11.8%

Data Source: Court Services Branch CORIN Database

Note 2002/03 figures are preliminary and subject to change.

* Adult new cases for 1996/97 reflect the addition of an estimated number of cases to account for the file numbering problem in Vancouver Provincial Court.

Provincial Court Sitting Hours by Adjudicator Type and Court Type
1995/96 to 2002/03

Court Hours for Provincial Court Judges (includes Unknown Adjudicator Types)

Court Type	1996/97*	1997/98*	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	02-03 % Chg
FRA/FMEA	7,817	8,821	9,782	10,313	11,054	11,404	12,313	8.0%
FCS/CFCSA	5,546	6,847	7,592	8,615	8,072	7,533	6,916	-8.2%
Family Total	13,363	15,668	17,375	18,928	19,126	18,938	19,230	1.5%
Small Claims	16,631	16,055	15,695	17,018	15,666	14,377	12,791	-11.0%
Adult Criminal**	61,426	62,649	63,293	65,541	64,874	62,892	63,728	1.3%
Youth	11,048	10,882	11,307	9,880	7,968	7,172	6,794	-5.3%
Total Hours	102,468	105,255	107,670	111,368	107,633	103,379	102,542	-0.8%

Court Hours for Judicial Justices of the Peace (Formerly Sitting Justices of the Peace)*

Court Type	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	02-03 % Chg
FRA/FMEA	93	126	153	60	35	44	71	59.6%
FCS/CFCSA	20	27	29	40	45	39	57	45.6%
Family Total	113	152	183	100	80	84	128	53.0%
Small Claims	1,171	1,240	1,104	839	1,065	980	884	-9.8%
Adult Criminal**	8,029	11,944	13,520	13,010	11,822	11,522	10,960	-4.9%
Youth	24	85	81	74	3	2	0	-76.2%
Total Hours	9,337	13,420	14,888	14,022	12,969	12,587	11,973	-4.9%

Court Hours for Judicial Case Managers (Formerly Trial Co-ordinators)*

Court Type	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	02-03 % Chg
FRA/FMEA	-	-	-	1	3	6	7	4.0%
FCS/CFCSA	-	-	-	1	2	3	3	-5.1%
Family Total	-	-	-	3	5	10	10	0.9%
Small Claims	-	-	-	0	3	0	1	200.0%
Adult Criminal**	1,254	1,968	2,349	3,734	7,082	7,012	5,917	-15.6%
Youth	220	172	261	458	624	570	461	-19.2%
Total Hours	1,474	2,140	2,610	4,195	7,714	7,592	6,388	-15.9%

Court Hours for All Adjudicator Types

Court Type	1996/97*	1997/98*	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	02-03 % Chg
FRA/FMEA	7,910	8,947	9,936	10,374	11,092	11,455	12,391	8.2%
FCS/CFCSA	5,566	6,873	7,622	8,657	8,119	7,576	6,977	-7.9%
Family Total	13,476	15,821	17,557	19,031	19,211	19,031	19,367	1.8%
Small Claims	17,802	17,295	16,800	17,857	16,734	15,358	13,676	-10.9%
Adult Criminal**	70,709	76,561	79,162	82,285	83,777	81,426	80,605	-1.0%
Youth	11,292	11,139	11,649	10,412	8,594	7,743	7,255	-6.3%
Total Hours	113,279	120,815	125,168	129,586	128,316	123,558	120,903	-2.1%

Data Source: Court Services Branch CORIN and CSS Databases

Note 2002/03 figures are preliminary and subject to change.

* Court hours for 1996/97 and 1997/98 include an estimate for Kelowna Adult Criminal and Youth hours.

** Adult Criminal includes Traffic Court.

*** Judicial Justice of the Peace hours include Court Services JP hours for Family and Small Claims, and Judicial Case Manager hours include Court Services JP hours for Adult Criminal and Youth.

Adult Criminal and Youth Cases with Future Scheduled Appearances*
March, 1996 - March, 2003

Adult Criminal and Youth Pending Cases

Adult Criminal
Cases with Future Appearances

Month	Total Cases Pending	% Change From Prev. Year
31-Mar-96	22,926	---
31-Mar-97	26,228	14.4%
31-Mar-98	30,064	14.6%
31-Mar-99	29,823	-0.8%
31-Mar-00	25,892	-13.2%
31-Mar-01	22,293	-13.9%
31-Mar-02	23,965	7.5%
31-Mar-03	24,130	0.7%

Youth
Cases with Future Appearances

Month	Total Cases Pending	% Change From Prev. Year
31-Mar-96	3,725	---
31-Mar-97	3,738	0.3%
31-Mar-98	4,210	12.6%
31-Mar-99	3,526	-16.2%
31-Mar-00	2,824	-19.9%
31-Mar-01	2,474	-12.4%
31-Mar-02	2,371	-4.2%
31-Mar-03	2,345	-1.1%

Data Source: Court Services Branch CORIN Database

Percentage of Adult Criminal and Youth Pending Cases >240 Days Old

Adult Criminal
Cases with Future Appearances

Month	% Cases Pending >240 Days	% Change From Prev. Year
31-Mar-96	36.8%	---
31-Mar-97	41.1%	11.6%
31-Mar-98	50.0%	21.7%
31-Mar-99	47.3%	-5.3%
31-Mar-00	34.6%	-27.0%
31-Mar-01	36.2%	4.7%
31-Mar-02	37.4%	3.4%
31-Mar-03	39.5%	5.6%

Youth
Cases with Future Appearances

Month	% Cases Pending >240 Days	% Change From Prev. Year
31-Mar-96	22.5%	---
31-Mar-97	26.9%	19.5%
31-Mar-98	28.9%	7.5%
31-Mar-99	26.9%	-6.7%
31-Mar-00	18.9%	-29.7%
31-Mar-01	17.3%	-8.9%
31-Mar-02	12.2%	-29.4%
31-Mar-03	11.6%	-4.8%

Data Source: Court Services Branch CORIN Database

Note 2002/03 figures are preliminary and subject to change.

* Does not include Provincial Motor Vehicle and Municipal Bylaw cases.

Note: Cases with future scheduled appearances (pending cases) are cases for which the future appearance is set for any reason, including first appearance, plea, judicial interim release, trial, etc. Bench warrant time periods excluded from case age.

Provincial Adult Criminal and Youth Court Appearances per Completed Case* 1992/93 to 2002/03

Adult Criminal

Year	Number of Appearances**	Number of Completed Cases	Average Number of Appearances per Case	% Change from Previous Year
1992/93	320,742	85,956	3.73	----
1993/94	362,999	94,261	3.85	3.2%
1994/95	422,309	103,049	4.10	6.4%
1995/96	451,840	108,095	4.18	2.0%
1996/97	527,739	104,421	5.05	20.9%
1997/98	547,584	105,256	5.20	2.9%
1998/99	578,486	107,650	5.37	3.3%
1999/00	594,544	108,462	5.48	2.0%
2000/01	612,015	106,347	5.75	5.0%
2001/02	610,036	107,808	5.66	-1.7%
2002/03	605,939	102,344	5.92	4.6%

Youth

Year	Number of Appearances**	Number of Completed Cases	Average Number of Appearances per Case	% Change from Previous Year
1992/93	63,434	18,338	3.46	----
1993/94	65,687	18,553	3.54	2.4%
1994/95	69,843	19,126	3.65	3.1%
1995/96	74,352	20,098	3.70	1.3%
1996/97	82,165	19,086	4.30	16.4%
1997/98	83,616	18,055	4.63	7.6%
1998/99	88,042	18,261	4.82	4.1%
1999/00	85,429	17,952	4.76	-1.3%
2000/01	79,258	16,025	4.95	3.9%
2001/02	76,575	15,484	4.95	0.0%
2002/03	71,100	13,541	5.25	6.2%

Data Source: Court Services Branch CORIN Database

Note 2002/03 figures are preliminary and subject to change.

* Excludes Provincial Motor Vehicle and Municipal Bylaw cases.

** Appearances may be for Provincial Motor Vehicle counts if included on a Adult Criminal or Youth case.

Note: appearances may have occurred in years previous to the year in which the case was completed. The number of appearances were counted for all of the counts/charges associated with the case. Therefore, if the accused appeared on one charge five times and another charge six times, the count of the number of appearances for that case would be six appearances since the accused appeared a total of six times in relation to the case.